



SHIRLEY HAMPTON

PRESIDENT

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Iowa Utilities Board

Respond to Docket #RMU-2022-0037

I am writing on behalf of Iowa Association of the Deaf, Inc. as I am the current president of this organization. I also serve as a deaf consumer on the Dual Party Relay Council.

Item 1: Change the word “disorders” to “difficulties” to remove the negative perception toward those who have speech difficulties. We empathize with this group as we are struggling being labeled as “hearing impaired”.

Item 2: Adding power of attorney to the list of who can apply for equipment. We favor this.

Item 3: When IDPRC was formed years ago, we use one phone in the household so the rule “one device” per household was adopted. Teletype devices and landline phones are almost totally obsolete, and Ma Bell was sent to retirement. Now we know almost everyone uses mobile phone and we support the proposed amendment to allow each person to apply for a device.

Item 4: At today’s DPRC meeting we learned the average mobile phone lasts average 33 months before problems show up. Batteries do wear out before 5 years. Newer phones have better battery life than the phones 3 years ago. Also, they run longer and not require frequent charging. Warranties for phones are up to 3 years. With these, we support reapplication every 3 years instead of 5.

If you have any question, please do not hesitant to contact me.

Shirley Hampton

President

Iowa Association of the Deaf